CONFIDENTIAL

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POL 23-9 Libya

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

EXCISE

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ACTION AF I8

INFO OCT 01 EUR 17 IO 13 UCF 05 CIAE 00 DODE 00 JPM 04 H 02 INR 07
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R 021405Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2161
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY U N DATE 12 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5536

1. BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHY, HISTORICAL TIES, LARGE ITALIAN COMMUNITY (25-30,000) AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, PUBLIC REACTION LIBYAN COUP HAS BEEN GREAT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW IS THAT COUP HAS YET TO PROVE ITSELF, DESPITE SIGNS IN ITS FAVOR. RCC'S INITIAL POLICY STATEMENTS ARE BELIEVED BY ITALIANS BE DELIBERATELY MODERATE AND THEREFORE NOT CONVINCING. FOREIGN MINISTRY THINKS NEW REGIME RECOGNIZES ITS NEED FOR BREATHING SPELL AND THAT, IN EARLY DAYS AT LEAST, IT WILL AVOID EXTREME DECLARATIONS.

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